

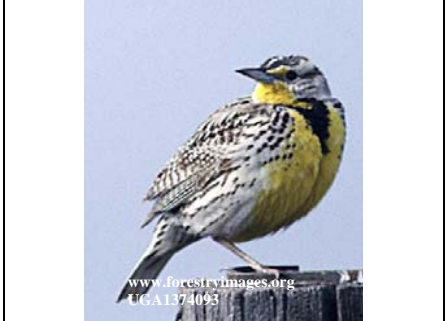


 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>CANADA GOOSE <i>Branta Canadensis</i> The most widespread goose. Often seen migrating in V-formations in fall or spring; often year-round residents in many areas. Fluffy yellow goslings grow up into huge brown gees with long black necks, black heads and a white chinstrap. VOICE: Deep musical honking, <i>ka-runk</i> or <i>ka-lunk</i> HABITAT: Lakes, ponds, bays, marshes, fields</p>	 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>MALLARD <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> The world's most widespread duck. While the male is more colorful than the brown mottled female, both have a shiny bluish patch on the wing, called the speculum. VOICE: Male= <i>yeeb</i>, Female = loud quacking HABITAT: ponds, lakes, marshes, bays, city parks</p>	 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>AMERICAN COOT <i>Fulica Americana</i> A familiar wetland bird with a distinctive white bill. Aggressive. When swimming, it pumps its head back and forth, and can dive from the surface. The downy chicks have a hairy orange-red head. VOICE: A grating <i>kuk-kuk-kuk-kuk</i>; various crackles, croaks HABITAT: ponds, lakes, marshes</p>	 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>RING-BILLED GULL <i>Larus delawarensis</i> This gull was almost eliminated by human encroachment between 1850 and 1920, but has made a dramatic comeback. The gull takes three years to become an adult. The black ring around its bill is its distinctive feature. VOICE: A high pitched <i>hiyak...hiyah...hyia-hyak</i> HABITAT: lakes, bays, coasts, piers, dumps (opportunistic feeder)</p>	 <p>www.forestryimages.org UGA2189003</p> <p>GREAT BLUE HERON <i>Ardea herodias</i> A lean gray bird that can stand 4 ft. tall. It has long legs, long neck, dagger like bill and flies with its neck pulled in. VOICE: Deep harsh croaks: <i>frahnk, frahnk, frahnk</i> HABITAT: Marshes, swamps, shores, tideflats</p>	 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>GREAT HORNED OWL <i>Bubo virginianus</i> North America's largest owl. It has ear tufts and is roughly eagle-sized. This owl eats rabbits, skunks, squirrels, and sometimes smaller owls. VOICE: <i>Hoo!, hu-hu-hu, Hoo! Hoo!</i> HABITAT: forests, streamsides, open country</p>
 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>AMERICAN CROW <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i> A very common bird in most of the U.S. and Canada. Often gregarious. A large, chunky black bird. VOICE: Loud <i>caw, caw, caw</i> HABITAT: woodlands, farms, field, shores, towns, dumps</p>	 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>BLACK-BILLED MAGPIE <i>Pica pica</i> A gregarious jay-like bird of the West. In flight its long greenish black tail streams behind and white patches flash in the wings. VOICE: A harsh rapid <i>queg queg queg queg</i>; also a nasal <i>maag?</i> HABITAT: rangeland, brushy country, conifers, streamsides, farms</p>	 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE <i>Parus atricapillus</i> A small, plump, small-billed bird. In addition to black cap, it has a white wing patch and rusty sides VOICE: <i>chick-a-dee-dee-dee</i> HABITAT: woods, willow thickets, shade trees</p>	 <p>www.forestryimages.org UGA1374098</p> <p>MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD <i>Sialia currucoides</i> Males colored peacock blue with a paler belly – no orange coloring like the Western Bluebird. Female is dull brownish. VOICE: a low <i>chur</i> or <i>phew</i>, short subdued warble. HABITAT: open country with some trees</p>	 <p>©Bob Martinka</p> <p>RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD <i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> One of the first birds to migrate north in early spring. Male is bright, female is drab. VOICE: a loud <i>check</i>, high <i>tee-err</i>; song is a gurgling <i>konk-la-ree</i> HABITAT: marshes, brushy swamps, hayfields, along edges of water</p>	 <p>www.forestryimages.org UGA1374093</p> <p>WESTERN MEADOWLARK <i>Sturnella neglecta</i> The Montana state bird. A member of the blackbird family – not larks. Has a distinctive V-shaped bib. VOICE: 7-10 flute-like notes, double-noted HABITAT: meadows, grasslands, prairies</p>



A Beginning Bird Guide

Resources: Peterson, Roger Tory. Peterson Field Guides. Western Birds. Third Edition. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1990.
Peterson, Roger Tory. A Field Guide to the Birds Coloring Book. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co. 1982.
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Ornithologists' Union. All About Birds. <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/>
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Animal Field Guide On-line. <http://fwp.mt.gov/fieldguide/>
Martinka, Bob. Photographs of Canada geese, mallard, American coot, ring-billed gull, great horned owl, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee, and red-winged blackbird.
Evans, Chris. Photograph of great blue heron. <http://www.forestryimages.org>
Spivey, Terry. Photographs of western meadowlark and mountain bluebird. <http://www.forestryimages.org>
American Crow photo courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey